GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1159
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2002
REVIEW OF COMMISSION TO GIVE MORE POWERS TO PANCHAYATS
PRABODH PANDA

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to change the Electoral College for MLAs to Chairpersons of Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to review the Constitution of India to facilitate transfer of more powers to the panchayats so that they can function independently; and

(d) the name of States that submitted amendments to the commission for Review of the Constitution of India headed by Mr. Justice Venkatachaliah?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India have no plans at present to review the Constitution of India to facilitate transfer of more powers to the Panchayats. Article 243 G of the Constitution has empowered the State Legislatures for devolution of power upon Panchayati Raj Institutions to enable them to function as institutions of self-government.

(d) The Commission had released a Consultation Paper on `Review of the Working of the Provisions for Decentralisation (Panchayats)` on 26th September, 2001 for generating a public debate and eliciting public response. A copy of the Consultation Paper was sent, inter-alia, to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations requesting for their comments. The Commission has received response only from the Union Territory of Daman and Diu stating that the Union Territory was without Legislature and, therefore, they had no views to offer.